

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1010
March 9, 2004

Minutes

Member Present:

SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
STONELY, Todd – Division of Water Resources
HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks & Recreation
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
BLATTER, Therron – DEQ/Environmental
GEORGESON, Michael – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water
BAZA, John – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
FISHER, Rand - DEQ/ Water Quality
HOPKIN, George – Department of Agriculture & Food
CHRISTY, Kim – School & Institutional Trust Lands

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – GOPB/Department of Natural Resources
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
RIGTRIP, Keith – Bureau of Land Management
HARJA, John – Department of Natural Resources
RAMSAY, Clare – Garfield County Commission

I. Approval of Minutes

Glade Sowards called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed revisions to the minutes were submitted by Michael Keene for February 10, 2004 minutes and Walter Baker for the January 13, 2004 minutes. Carolyn Wright will request that their comments be submitted at the April meeting. Karl Kappe made a motion to table the minutes. Mike Georgeson seconded the motion until we receive clarification at the April meeting.

For the February minutes replace “Wide Hollow Reservoir” with “White Hollow Reservoir” in the second paragraph, on page 3.

II. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Mike Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources, requested expedited review of the Experimental Spotted Frog Repatriation (transplant) project, Project Management System (PML) #3779. Spotted frog eggs will be transported to Swaner Nature Preserve near Kimball Junction, Utah. The Spotted Frog Technical Team and several other agencies have identified this location for transplant of frog eggs in April. They will determine which methods work best. Mike Canning requested an expedited review of this project. A meeting will be held on March 10, 2004 with Summit County Commission to discuss transplanting egg masses. Public meetings will be held on March 18 and March 24, 2004. The Wildlife Board discuss this issue on April 1, 2004. Populations will be taken from a location below Jordanelle Reservoir.

Michael Georgeson, Department of Environmental Quality, Drinking Water, reported that Timber Lake subdivision east of Heber City, Twin Creeks and Logan, Utah new tank site projects will be located along existing roads. There will be little environmental impact.

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, reported that their Logan office is working on recreational use issues and impacts on the exposed bed of Bear Lake.

John Baza, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, reported that APD wells in Uintah County private property along the White River. Comments are needed short-time turn around. There are floodplain and wildlife concerns related to this project proposal.

Keith Rigtrup, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), reported that the Draft Price Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be published on April 9, 2004. The draft will be available for a 90-day public review. The Vernal Draft RMP will be available for a 90-day public review. The Kanab RMP is delayed a few weeks due to planning and budgetary issues.

Matthew Higdon, BLM, reported that 20 land-use plans will be amended in Utah (except Vernal and Price.) A Notice of Intent will be released by late April 2004. Plan updates will include fire and fuels management information to comply with the National Park Service requirements.

John Harja, Department of Natural Resources/Governor's Office, reported that the test and training range Defense department restriction of plans in the west Desert. The Defense department requires that plan are on hold while they determine the effects of flying jets on wilderness.

House Bill 88, State Land Use Management Plans, was passed by the legislature. It amends the state code that describes the role of the State Planning Coordinator (RDCC reports to.) This bill will enhance cooperation with the federal government agencies. It includes information about desired future conditions and establishment of agreements to interact and help local governments. The role of the State Planning Coordinator shall put together policy, plans and programs dealing with federal lands and natural resources. Establishes goals, multiple-use, support grazing, support agriculture, RS 2477, wild and scenic river designation and areas of critical environmental concern.

For example, in regard to Wild and Scenic River designation, the policy that will require that water is present and flowing year-round, irrigation, power plants, values, economic studies, multiple uses. Another example, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are intended to protect something that is important and is relevant on a regional scale and to help determine if there would be any possible harm or irreparable damage. These guidelines will be considered in compiling planning comments and analysis. If you have any questions about the new policy, please bring them to the meeting next month.

House Bill 206 that establishes time lines governor and the State Planning Coordinator can share state comments on draft plans with county commissioners. This establishes 20-day time period for review and to send the plans to the federal agency. The counties will have ten days to respond back.

All agencies involved will need to meet deadlines. Late comments will not be included if they are received after the deadline. This means that a 90-day comment period may only have a 60-day deadline.

Kim Christy, School and Institution Trust Lands (SITLA), mentioned that often comment responses from the counties are delayed. Please courtesy copy county commissioners regarding comments on projects.

III. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

Bill Schlotthauer, mentioned that the Groundwater Hydrology Digital Model of the Kamas Valley, Technical Report #117, has been published. Hard copies are available in the DNR Book Store. The Skull Valley construction project will be for a normal waste disposal site. Two hearings will be held and deadline for comments is March 22, 2004. Bureau of Indian Affairs will approve the lease for normal waste disposal construction waste facility.

Glade Sowards, Utah Energy Office, RDCC chair, reported that a Environmental Protection Agency proposed national emission standards for hazardous air pollutant proposed rule dealing with mercury from power plants. The deadline for comments for PML #3709 is March 23, 2004. This is a complicated issue with a large amount of information to review.

Kim Christy, SITLA, reported that PML #3781 is an amendment for an easement regarding a road realignment (Nine Mile) to support oil and gas transportation. The historically significant panel will be protected because of efforts of several agencies. There will be less risk of public exposure.

Representative Bowman, sponsored a successful bill to expanding out-of-state user fees for all off-highway vehicles (OHV) including snowmobiles. This bill was passed with exception of one-time commercial events or states that we have a reciprocal agreement with Arizona and Colorado.

House Bill 220 passed and allowed the Parks and Recreation Board to increase the registration fee for in-state OHV users fees from \$10 to \$17. SITLA will receive \$1.50 of in- and out-of-state user fees (\$250,000). SITLA has been seeing significant impacts on state land resources since federal agencies have increased the number of OHV restrictions. The number of OHV users have increased from approximately 40,000 to 120,000 last year. This funding will improve coordinated planning efforts to address OHV issues and to better accommodate controlled access. The money will be used for OHV trail improvements, easements and to address OHV impacts.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:38 a.m. The next meeting will be held on April 13, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1010.